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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSESTATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I welcome Chairman Khrushchev's statesmanlike decision to stop building bases in Cuba, dismantling offensive weapons and returning them to the Soviet Union under United Nations verification. This is an important and constructive contribution to peace.

We shall be in touch with the Secretary General of the United Nations with respect to reciprocal measures to assure peace in the Caribbean area.

It is my earnest hope that the governments of the world can, with a solution of the Cuban crisis, turn their urgent attention to the compelling necessity for ending the arms race and reducing world tensions. This applies to the military confrontation between the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries as well as to other situations in other parts of the world where tensions lead to the wasteful diversion of resources to weapons of war.

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UPI-30

(TEXT)

WASHINGTON--TEXT OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S STATEMENT ON DISMANTLING OF SOVIET MISSILE BASES IN CUBA:

I WELCOME CHAIRMAN KHRUSHCHEV'S STATESMANLIKE DECISION TO STOP BUILDING BASES IN CUBA, DISMANTLING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS AND RETURNING THEM TO THE SOVIET UNION UNDER UNITED NATIONS VERIFICATION. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE.

WE SHALL BE IN TOUCH WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH RESPECT TO RECIPROCAL MEASURES TO ASSURE PEACE IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA.

IT IS MY FARNEST HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD CAN, WITH A SOLUTION OF THE CUBAN CRISIS, TURN THEIR URGENT ATTENTION TO THE COMPELLING NECESSITY FOR ENDING THE ARMS RACE AND REDUCING WORLD TENSIONS. THIS APPLIES TO THE MILITARY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE WARREN PACT AND THE NATO COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS TO OTHER SITUATIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD WHERE TENSIONS LEAD TO THE WASTEFUL DIVERSION OF RESOURCES TO WEAPONS OF WAR.

(END TEXT)

10/28--TS1221PES

**DRAFT FOLLOWS**

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

Col. Burris -----

Put in safe. with other papers  
during Cuba crisis.

LBJ/mjdr

2/18/63

5 p.m.

I welcome Chairman Khrushchev's statesmanlike

decision to stop building bases in Cuba, dismantling the equipment

and sending it back home under UN supervision. This is an

important and constructive contribution to peace. I repeat my

assurance that the United States ~~will not invade Cuba since the~~

necessity for military action would disappear with the removal

of offensive weapons.

We shall be in touch with the Secretary General of the

United Nations with respect to reciprocal measures to assure

peace in the Caribbean area.

It is my earnest hope that the governments of the world

can, with a solution of the Cuban crisis, turn their urgent

attention to the compelling necessity for ending the arms race

and reducing world tensions. This applies to the military

...between the United East and NATO countries  
as well as to other situations in other parts of the world where  
tensions lead to the diversion of resources to weapons of war.